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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/926,168	09/18/2001	Heiko Maas	213301US0PCT	8981

22850 7590 04/28/2003

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

PRICE, ELVIS O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1621	5

1621

5

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Lack of Unity

1. Claims 1-13 and 19-26 are pending in the application.
2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-13 and 19-22, drawn to a method of preparing an alcohol (or alkoxylation) product, an olefin mixture used to prepare the alcohol (or alkoxylation) product, the alcohol product (or alkoxylation) and a nonionic surfactant composition comprising the alkoxylation product.

Group II, claim(s) 23, drawn to a method for preparing a surfactant.

Group III, claim(s) 24, drawn to a method for preparing glycoside and polyglycoside mixtures.

Group IV, claim(s) 25, drawn to a method for preparing a surface-active sulfate.

Group V, claim(s) 26, drawn to a method for preparing surface-active phosphates.

The invention listed as Groups I through V do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The invention(s) of Group I is entails (1) a process for preparing an alcohol (or alkoxylation)

Art Unit: 1621

product, (2) the alcohol (or alkoxylation) product (3) a surfactant composition comprising the alkoxylation product and an olefin mixture, which is used to prepare the claimed alcohol (or alkoxylation) product. Group II is drawn to a method for preparing a surfactant that does not require the particulars of Group I as any known alcohol or fatty functionalized compound(s) may be used to prepare a surfactant. Group III, drawn to a method for preparing glycoside and polyglycoside mixtures does not require the particulars of Group I or II and therefore there is no special technical feature that unites Group III with Group I or II. Group IV is drawn to a method of preparing a surface-active sulfate and there is no special technical feature that unites Group IV with any of Groups I to III. Group V corresponds to a method for preparing a surface-active phosphate, which can be performed by using any known fatty alcohol, made by any known process for preparing fatty alcohols. Therefore Group V does not require the particulars of either of the above groups (Groups I through IV). There is no special technical feature of unity of invention, which unites the five Groups.

A telephone call was made to Daniel J. Pereira on 4/23/03 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.


Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Art Unit: 1621

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elvis O. Price whose telephone number is 703 605-1204. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm; Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann R. Richter can be reached on 703 308-4532. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703 308-4556 for regular communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-1235.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elvis O. Price', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elvis O. Price

April 23, 2003